

## REMARKS

### INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 2, 9-11, and 18 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7, and 9-19 are pending and under consideration.

### ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

In the Office Action, at page 2, the Examiner indicated that claim 19 is allowed and claims 2-7 and 9-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, and 9-11 have been rewritten in independent form, and that claims 2-7, and 9-17 are now allowable.

### REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

In the Office Action, at page 2, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 8, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Hernandez et al., (US 6,182,460 – hereinafter Hernandez). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicant traverses this rejection and respectfully requests reconsideration.

Claims 1 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of claim 2 has been incorporated into independent claim 18.

Accordingly, amended, independent claim 18 recites: "...a support rib provided on the partition plate to engage the air discharging duct with the partition plate, wherein the air discharging duct has a support hole engaging the support rib of the partition plate."

Hernandez discloses an air-conditioner 10 having an indoor section 12; an outdoor section 14; a rectangular housing 16; partition 26; inlet louvers 19; air discharge assembly 20; evaporator coil 28, disposed adjacent to inlet louvers 19; evaporator fan 30; and air directing scroll assembly 29. (See Hernandez, at FIGS. 1, 2, and 9, and col. 2, line 53 to col. 3, line 19). The Examiner appears to assert that air directing scroll assembly 29 corresponds to the claimed air duct guide and air discharging duct.

Given the Examiner's indicated allowability of claim 2, Applicant respectfully submits that Hernandez neither discloses nor suggests "...a support rib provided on the partition plate to engage the air discharging duct with the partition plate, wherein the air discharging duct has a support hole engaging the support rib of the partition plate."

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 18 patentably distinguishes over the cited art, and should be allowable.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

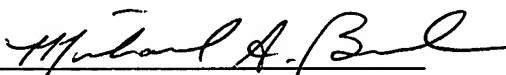
If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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